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◆ Student shares calligraphy talent. page 5



# The Gateway

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

**BUZZ:**

◆ Meg Ryan shines in "Courage Under Fire." page 6

◆ The Suicide Machines?

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## Regents Discuss Future of IS&T Building Site

By BRIAN J. TODD

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents passed its 1997-99 biennial budget request at its meeting Saturday in South Sioux City, Neb. The budget, which would total over \$455 million for the 1997-98 fiscal year and \$473 million for the 1998-99 fiscal year will be sent to Gov. Ben Nelson for approval by September 15.

Much of the talk at the meeting, however, centered on the new Information Sciences and Technology (IS&T) building at UNO and where that building would be located.

"It would be a major mistake," said University President L. Dennis Smith, concerning the possibility of the Douglas County Board not passing the proposal made by Omaha's First Data Resources to buy a piece of land from the county at Aksarben. FDR has promised to give half of its proposed purchase, 60 acres, to UNO for the site of its IS&T building.

Several members of the Douglas County Board have said they would prefer to see how voters will treat a gambling initiative on the November ballot before approving a sale that would end horse racing at the track.

"What those members of the county board are saying is that gambling is more important than education," said UNO Chancellor Del Weber.

The Douglas County Board votes Tuesday on the FDR proposal.

Two of the larger items in the NU biennial budget were building projects slated for UNO.

The first was the approval of UNO's new IS&T building as a \$37.5 million project, a decision that did not pass without some debate.

The possibility of saving as much as \$6 million by proposing a \$31 million building and housing several engineering programs in UNO's Engineering Building rather than in the proposed IS&T building was brought up by Regent Charles Wilson.

The Regents would have an easier time selling their budget to the governor and the state legislature, Wilson said, if the Regents tried to save as much money in their request as possible.

However, a question of just how much could be saved by splitting engineering programs between two separate buildings, particularly if those buildings were separated by Elmwood Park,

-see Regents, page 7-

## New Deans, IS&T College Looking Towards the Future

By JONATHAN PELPHREY

With the creation of the new College of Information Science and Technology (IS&T), UNO has the opportunity to chart new territory in education, said Thomas McClung, the new associate dean of IS&T. "This is a relatively new thrust in education," McClung said in reference to the formation of a college devoted entirely to information sciences. The new college will bring with it a new set of possibilities and obstacles.

McClung, who began his duties on July 1, has experience in planning and developing large-scale projects as well as an extensive background in business. He said that the opportunity to get in on the ground floor of something as important as the IS&T college was what initially attracted him to the job.

"I really like the challenge of building something, of creating something," he said.

The most obvious building project ahead is the construction of a new building that will house the college. The Douglas County Board will vote today on whether or not to go ahead with a proposal by First Data Resources to develop a portion of Aksarben into a campus that will be shared by UNO and FDR. If the proposal passes, the new IS&T building would be located at the Aksarben site, "as part of the broader idea of a southern campus," said McClung.

Even if the building cannot be built at the Aksarben location, the target completion date of mid-1999 should still be met, he said.

"The building will be built, it's just a question of where," said McClung. If the building must be built here on campus, it will be located southwest of Durham Science Center.

The new college must also work on building an academic program, including a core curriculum. This will take place gradually over the course of the next few years, McClung said, but there are a few things that are happening now. For

example, instructors in Computer Science, which was formerly a part of the College of Arts and Sciences, now are working in IS&T. Faculty and classes from other colleges will also be incorporated into IS&T.

Existing programs and classes will be brought directly over into the IS&T curriculum initially, with modifications and additions taking place over time.

"The transition will be fuzzy for awhile," McClung said. "We want to take what we can from existing programs, but we want to make sure we think outside the box."

McClung believes some of the fresh thinking will revolve around how best to serve the Omaha business community. "We need to make sure we produce the kind of graduates that area businesses need," he said. To do this, the college will need to have an applied focus, he said.

"The challenge is to have an emphasis on the application of research," he said. This is not to say that the college will not be involved in research, which will remain an integral part of the college's function, he said.

The creation and evolution of the new college will be a great opportunity to give back to the business community that has been an important support to UNO through the years. According to McClung, the response he has heard from Omaha area business has been extremely positive and supportive and he looks forward to the challenge.

"We get to build something from scratch and see what happens," he said.



THOMAS MCCLUNG



MICHAEL MULDER

### Act Two: Willa Cather



Betty Jean Steinshour plays the role of Willa Cather in Act Two of a back-to-back special performance Thursday at the Grand Olde Theatre Players. The UNO Library co-sponsored the event with the Omaha Public Library and the Grand Olde Theatre.

## Opera Encores Abound for Alumna

By PAULA B. SEEVERS

In March of this year, former UNO music student Leah Creek stepped onto a stage in New York City and into her future. Creek had earned the prestigious title of Metropolitan Opera National Council Winner after successfully competing on district and regional levels, in a field of some 2000 singers from Australia, Puerto Rico, Canada and the United States.

According to Robert G. Ruetz, professor emeritus of music at UNO and long-time audition judge, such a win is "a pivotal point in anyone's career -- a major accomplishment."

Opera company directors will make note that she was one of the winners, which places her high on the list for auditions around the country and even around the world.

As vocal instructor for Creek in her senior year recital, Ruetz knew Creek had special talent. "She is probably one of the finest students we have ever had in music," he said, looking back with over 25 years experience on the UNO music faculty. He said she was always striving for excellence in her performing, and this is evidence that the old adage "nice people finish last" just isn't true. Ruetz attributes her success to "her intense desire to perform and improve herself," calling her "a bright young lady and a hard worker, (giving) 110 plus percent." In her, he saw the energy and persistence necessary for the competitive world of vocal performance.

What does it take to develop a voice of operatic quality? "Part is God-given," Ruetz said. "And secondly, it's the utiliza-

tion of that talent, how you develop it yourself, and the training that you have. Parents can have influence on the development of that voice from early, early on."

In a family filled with musical interest, Creek got that influence. Starting at an early age with the Suzuki violin method, she continued playing through high school.

"She, all along in her life," said her mother, Virginia, "had this background of classical music." In junior high and high school, "She was always in everything that she could be in that required either acting or singing." She loved it and it "seemed to fulfill just what she looked for, somehow."

After graduating from Benson High in 1986, Creek chose to attend UNO. Her mother said she wasn't one of those people who couldn't wait to get away from home as soon as possible after high school. Her daughter thought there were things still to do in Omaha, opportunities to explore, and opera is very accessible here.

During her time at UNO, Creek often performed with the music department, in support of her fellow students, and with the Opera Omaha chorus. She was a music education major and wrote to Ruetz during the time she was student teaching. In the letter, she said she was enjoying her student teaching but had decided to go on for her master's degree. He said it is not

-see Creek, page 7-



# Opinions & Editorials

## Dream Team III Losing the 'Dreamy' Thunder

No NBA fan is going to forget about the 1992 Dream Team. It was something special — everybody knew it and everybody savored it.

There were players looking for their final center-stage performance. It was Magic, Michael, Larry and Charles all on the same court covered in the same uniform. Something was magical



**TONY REINKE**  
Sports Columnist

about the 1992 Dream Team's 44 point average rout of foreign opponents because it was more than a score — it was the last hurrah for the HIV-positive Magic Johnson and the aging Larry Bird.

The games were a international showcase of the greatest basketball player to lace-up Nike's in Michael Jordan and it was the brash outspoken image that Charles Barkley showed the world that put the Dream in front of the Team.

Take a flight past 'Dream Team II' and look at the new talk of the NBA — Dream Team III. Headed by younger players who took a back seat in 1992, this team is coming out to shine. But the glitter is all but gone.

When the first Dream Team took the court everyone could relate. Bird signified those blue-collar workers who worked 8-5 shifts. Magic represented the west coast style people — the upper class. Barkley signified the part of America which is brash, openly honest and flamboyant. Jordan signified a dream, a dream of perfection which lived in the hearts of everyone.

It was more than a gold medal (which was basically guaranteed to the Dream Team if they decided to show up for the games). The 1992 basketball venue signified America and the world. Croatia was a team filled with fatigued young men who lived in violence every day. Every international team took on an identity.

But it's now 1996 and we are still comparing the Dream Team to Team No. III. There is no comparison.

The 32,000 fans who watched Dream Team III dip Greece 128-62 on Sunday, were as quiet as a tennis crowd awaiting the serve. There was nothing to hold on to. Who can relate to the money-greedy Shaquille O'Neal?

The biggest surprise was Dream Team III's narrow escape of a 22-and under select team of USA collegiate players (a game in which the select team took a 17 point half-time lead).

But it looks like the team is back on track and ready to take on the world. But is the world really desperate enough to watch the USA defend their world championship?

The higher the point totals the youthful team accumulates, the less exciting the games become. Since the 1992 team was the first Olympic team from the USA to include pro players, the blow-outs are becoming predictable and more unexcitable.

Besides, most basketball fans have an equally exciting alternative — Dream Team I on video tape.



**SIGNE**  
PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

## Songs Help Revive Forgotten Memories

I'm always amazed at how, when just a few chords of a particular song brush my ear, more than eight years of memories flood my mind and my heart bursts with longing to travel back in time.

Everyone has one song, the song, that sums up a memorable part of their life. No matter where you are, whether it be in a car or at work, whenever you hear that song, a part of your soul that you may have forgotten was there or that you may have shut the door on, opens up again. Try as you may, the memories come through -- and with the memories, come the feelings you felt, the dreams that you had and the life that you lived.

And when the song is over, that revived part of your soul marches back into its place. But not without leaving you with a feeling of longing for a time that once had been.

"Pictures of You," a older song by the neo-punk/alternative band The Cure, instantly crushes every grown-up nerve in my body and lets the part of my soul left over from my teenager days surface once again. I am weakened by the first hint of the drummer's beat and held captive till the last whisper of the melody.

Earlier today, as I was taking care of some of my grown-up responsibilities, that song came over the radio and hit me loud and clear. I immediately stopped everything I was doing and all but ran over to a shelf of dusty photo albums that sits high on my wall, well out of reach.

With little effort, I pulled them down, dusted them off and one by one, opened the covers and let the memories hit me like a semitrailer. I felt a door open inside me, a door that has been closed for a very long time. My heart seemed to radiate a warmth all its own and all I could think about was people, places and feelings long gone from my life.

"I've been looking so long at these pictures of you that I almost believe that they're real."

The pictures were taken so long ago that many faces no longer

have names, but I remembered how I felt when those people made me want to take a picture and freeze that moment in time. To capture a memory that someday I could look at and try to feel that same feeling again.

Other pictures are of people whose names I could never forget, but who, for one reason or another, now are only memories.

"Remembering you, standing quiet in the rain as I ran to your heart to be near."

They are pictures of high school picnics and class trips; of parties at times of celebration; and times of sorrow when we laid one of our own to rest.

They are pictures of a long-lost love, whom I never thought I could live without; and of friends with whom I never thought I'd say good-bye.

Most of all, they are pictures of times I remember fondly and that made me who I am today.

"If only I'd thought of the right words, I could have held onto your heart. If only I'd thought of the right words I wouldn't be breaking apart all my pictures of you."

Often I wonder, as I revel in the thoughts of these people and places in my past, if ever a song they hear somewhere, some place makes them stop what they are doing and break open pictures and memories of me. Maybe they remember a time when they leaned on me for support or a time when I made them laugh.

And the possibility that a picture or memory of me may make an old friend of mine now smile, warms my heart. They are only pictures and it is only a song. When the song is over and the photo album is collecting dust on its shelf, my life remains in the present and the future; and here it will stay... until the next time I feel need to break open all those "pictures of you."

"I've been looking so long at these pictures of you that I almost believe that they're real."



**VERONICA BURGHER**  
Columnist

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# Opinions & Editorials

## How Important is UNO to Omaha?

Del Weber whizzed one by me Saturday morning.

As chancellor of UNO, Weber was in South Sioux City, Neb. on Saturday morning for a meeting of the NU Board of Regents. And while every other member of the press at the meeting was busy filing stories about skyboxes at Lincoln's Memorial Stadium, I had more important, though slightly less glamorous, fish to fry. Or so I thought.

I had been asking Weber some questions concerning the upcoming vote by the Douglas County Board over whether to sell a part of Aksarben to First Data Resources (half of that land would be donated to UNO). I was hoping to get some interesting quotes for a column I planned on writing that would detail what fools the county board would be if they did not approve the FDR proposal. And that was when UNO's chancellor said something great that I did not quite catch at that moment.

During the debate over what to do with the Aksarben land, Weber said everyone is talking about how valuable FDR is and what a shame it would be to lose those 2,000 high-paying jobs.

"But no one is talking about the value of UNO to the community," he said.

And it whizzed right past me. I almost did not write it down.

At first I thought Weber was giving an almost shameless pitch for UNO. After all, a shameless pitch would be the perfect thing to give a wet-behind-the-ears journalism student.

I left the meeting thinking of ways to write cruel things about any member of the Douglas County Board that was not going to vote for the FDR deal.

But Weber's little pitch remained in my mind.

Why has anyone not talked about how important UNO is to Omaha? Or Douglas County or the State of Nebraska for that matter?

Oh, sure, FDR is important to Omaha and it would be a shame to lose any of their business in this city. They employ over 6,000 people in Omaha and are looking to increase that by almost 25 percent.

And by snubbing FDR, the county board could easily be sending the wrong message to other Omaha employers who are considering relocating their businesses. Union Pacific in particular has hinted that it could leave Omaha if FDR is given the bum's rush.

These companies do a lot for the Omaha community, but make no mistake about it, they would not be here at all if it was

not for UNO.

The University adds a lot to this community.

UNO's outstanding College of Teacher Education not only supplies area school districts with quality teachers, but supplies them for the rest of the state as well. UNO graduates have been in the boardrooms of some of Omaha's biggest companies, including Union Pacific, FDR and the now-departed Enron.

UNO helps support and put on the yearly "Shakespeare on the Green" festival that has been held in Elmwood Park for 10 years. It also supplies musicians and actors for local theaters and bands. The lead in the Omaha Community Playhouse's production of "West Side Story" is a current UNO student.

Unlike many of Omaha's bigger companies, however, UNO will not be going anywhere if the Douglas County Board does not approve the sale of land to FDR.

And that would be unfortunate, because

UNO has reached a point where its growing pains are becoming harder to bear.

UNO is growing, that is what the new Information Science and Technology college and expanded curriculum in engineering is all about. Omaha has lost too many businesses like Micron and BMW because its workforce was not trained well enough in the kinds of skills that those employers needed.

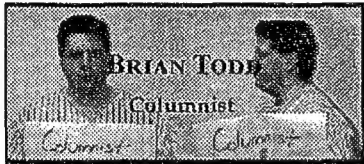
In order to make the jump from a good school to that of a great school, UNO needs land in which to expand.

"I wouldn't recommend (to Regents) that we go into Aksarben if it was only going to be for that one building," Weber said. Many things could be added in the future at the Aksarben site, including more dormitories (UNO's first ever dormitories will be built near the Criminal Justice Building, he said), practice fields, and more classroom buildings. On a campus already tight with space, Aksarben would give UNO the room it needs.

And the more UNO grows and is able to serve the community, the better off the community will be. The better able Omaha can attract new businesses, the better off the community will be.

UNO is something of which we should all be proud. Can we really say the same thing about video slot machines supporting a dying industry like horse racing?

I think the Douglas County Board should have no difficulty making its decision this Tuesday. I only hope they see FDR's pitch more quickly than I saw Del's.



BRIAN TODD  
Columnist



## Letters to the editor

### Alumni Majority Not Represented

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to an advertisement printed in the *Omaha World-Herald* regarding the UNO Alumni Association speaking on behalf of some 50,000 UNO graduates in support of the FDR and Aksarben proposal.

The ad, which ran in Sunday's July 7 edition, inferred that the 50,000 UNO alumni are behind the alumni association leaders in their support of this proposal. But, if citizens of Omaha and others read the copy carefully, only the leaders of this association are those behind this ad. In fact, only 21 individuals comprise the association's leaders.

After speaking with other UNO colleagues and graduates, I discovered none were asked about this proposal by the Alumni Association, nor were they polled or even sought to express an opinion on this issue. It is truly shameful that this body would speak on our behalf expressing their personal opinion publicly. What type of individuals (leaders) would write such loose copy that such inferences might be drawn?

As a UNO graduate and citizen of the community, I am willing to wait until the fall to let the democratic process unfold the future of Aksarben. Let the people decide rather than business leaders, large corporations and self-serving politicians. After all, Aksarben has been around since the 1930s; how many landmarks and institutions can Omaha afford to lose anyway?

Steve Kotlarz

1982 UNO Graduate

### Allotted Seating Enough for Students

Dear Editor:

In Tony Reinke's column titled "Is Hockey Really UNO's Sport?" in the July 9 *Gateway*, he stated there was not enough seating allotted for the students at the UNO hockey games. He also went on to say that without the support of the students, there wouldn't be any Husker basketball. There would be no one to sing the fight song at the Husker football games. Well, Tony, this is Maverick territory. Where are the students at the Maverick basketball games? I don't hear the fight song coming from the students at the Mav football games. The students chose this University to receive their higher education. Yet they don't show their support by attending the programs and events that are offered by the University. Everyone should be glad that the athletic department found enough support in the Omaha area to sell 6,389 seats. Hopefully this will be the beginning of a

-see Letters, page 7-

<http://www.gateway.unomaha.edu>

## "Should the Olympics be open to professional athletes in all sports?"



Steve Field  
UNO Sports  
Information Office

"All the sports should be open to professional athletes or none of them. You can't discriminate."



Joe Collins  
Biology senior

"If there were professional athletes in more sports, it would definitely help the Americans. All the other countries are using their best athletes in the Olympics."



Joanna Ziemba  
Visitor

"The Olympics should be open to everyone. Professional athletes aren't special -- we're all equal."



Sam Gerraughty  
Arts & Sciences  
senior

"If you have professional athletes in one sport, there should be professional athletes allowed to compete in all of them."



## News Briefs

### Flying Golf Balls

The UNO Aviation Institute will hold its Aviation Golf Tournament Saturday, July 27 at 11 a.m. at Tiburon Golf Course.

The cost of the tournament is \$65 and includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart rental, T-shirt, snacks and a chance to win prizes. Each member of the first place team will win two round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines. All proceeds from the tournament will benefit future aviation student scholarships.

### Church Parking Lot Changes

The south parking lot of Saint Margaret Mary's church has been under construction since July 8 and will continue through the first week of August, creating a loss of 36 parking spaces. The parking west of the church and along 62nd street will remain open for UNO parking.

## College of Continuing Studies, Non-Traditional Enrollment at UNO Growing

By BETH WARNER

There are no "typical" students at UNO. Even more, there are more than just "traditional" students enrolled. As a result, UNO is continuing to offer variations and flexibility for non-traditional students.

Karen Garver, an academic advisor in the College of Continuing Studies, said that one unique offering at UNO is the bachelor of general studies degree. A student must complete 125 credit hours, within that they must have 30 hours within one concentration and two 12-hour secondary fields. Garver said a unique aspect of the program is that UNO will give students credit for formal training completed outside of UNO. For example, if they have had training in the military or training in insurance, they often can apply that to their degree.

Garver said the program is the oldest and best program for non-traditional students. The program, which began in 1950, has 19,000 graduates to date.

"It's something that has been tried and tested and works really well," Garver said.

She said that UNO offers a lot of evening classes, which is a help to working students. Additionally, UNO offers classes at Offutt Air Force Base.

Currently, the College of Continuing Studies has 1,300 students, Garver said. The average age is 33 and three-fourths are part-time students.

Freshman counselor Debbie Burchard teaches a one-credit class called "New Start." Burchard said the class is for students who are starting college for the first time or have been out of school for a long time. The class emphasizes learning good study skills and really getting to know the UNO campus. The class visits the library, the computer rooms and Health Education and Physical Recreation Building (HPER). She said they also learn to send e-mail and use the World Wide Web. They also have guest speakers. Burchard said the class size is kept fairly small.

"It's a small class, so they get to know each other. There's a

real feeling of support from each other and the class," said Burchard. She said the class has been successful, "I know quite a few who have finished and graduated."

Julie Stoner, an admissions counselor at UNO, is also a non-traditional student.

Stoner said that she started college 12 years after she graduated from high school. Because she was also working full-time, it took her 16 years to finish her undergraduate work. She is now almost finished with a master's degree and working in the admissions office.

"UNO is perceived as a non-traditional campus," Stoner said. "One thing we do have is wonderfully flexible scheduling." Stoner said UNO offers an unusually high number of evening and weekend classes. She said many schools don't offer as many evening classes.

Additionally, she said UNO faculty members are particularly aware of the situation of an adult student. "All are able to communicate with an adult learners and are aware of adult situations."

Stoner said, for example, that after missing class because of illness she had a professor who was willing to work with her so she could maintain her grade.

She said she also thought other students were respectful of non-traditional students. "I didn't get a glitch of disrespect," said Stoner. "That's the culture of this university. We're a mixed bag."

Stoner said she thought non-traditional students were fairly evenly split between those "starting from scratch" without any college and those who had some college, but stepped out for some reason.

"Most people I knew were part-time because we were all going back and getting degrees while we were working," Stoner said.

Stoner said she is glad she went to school and is considering going on for a doctorate.

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**July 15-19**

## Local Colleges Adapting, Catering to Non-Traditional Students' Educational Needs

By BETH WARNER

College isn't just for the 18 to 22 set.

An informal panel of three admissions representatives from three area colleges said that a college degree is achievable for students of any age.

Sue Kropf, director of enrollment services at the College of St. Mary, said, "It's getting harder to define the non-traditional student." She said that at the College of St. Mary, about half the students are non-traditional, meaning that they are not entering college directly out of high school. She said among their students she sees "lots of gray hair," and many students are grandparents.

Amy Williams, a marketing and enrollment outreach counselor at Bellevue University, said that they have very few students in the 22 to 25 age range. "We see more that are 35 and up," Williams said.

Non-traditional students are more likely to enroll in an educational program that will prepare them for a specific career goal, such as nursing or a paralegal program, Kropf said.

Debra L. Daly, program coordinator for University College at Creighton University, agreed. "We have a skill-based society. Liberal arts doesn't sell so well for the non-traditional student." She said that even if a student does choose a traditional liberal arts program, it's important to gain computer skills.

Not all students enroll to train for a specific job. Williams said that many students attend Bellevue University to increase job security in their current job and for increased chances of promotion.

Kropf said that at College of St. Mary, students have said "My kids all have college degrees and I want one too."

Flexibility seems to be the name of the game in attracting older students.

Williams said Bellevue is "set up to work with the non-traditional student."

Kropf said that the College of St. Mary offers day, evening, and weekend classes. Day classes are offered in a traditional schedule and are attended by more traditional students. Students taking evening classes can go just one evening a week. Kropf said they offer a unique weekend program in which stu-

dents can attend class every other weekend. She said a student could complete a degree in four years by taking weekend classes only, but that student would have to be in class from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday for four years.

Daly said that Creighton is a "more traditional institution," but the school does offer 10 majors that can be completed in the evening. Classes in the evening have a tuition discount.

Kropf said that non-traditional students receive a tuition discount of more than \$100 for each credit hour for evening classes at College of St. Mary.

Daly said that one disadvantage of being a non-traditional student is fewer options for financial aid. Most grant programs require a very high financial need and a low income, she said.

"Low interest loans are the biggest resource for adults," said Daly. Adult students will typically take out a 10-year loan with either a four or seven percent interest rate.

Williams said that Bellevue University is very flexible about accepting credit from other colleges. "We'll take anything from an accredited college," said Williams.

They are also willing to grant college credit for life experience. For example, Williams said that she had one woman who had a cosmetics business before starting at Bellevue. She received credit in sales, marketing and management for her experience in the business. "The possibilities are endless," said Williams. She said, however, that it is usually difficult to fulfill general requirements like English, history and psychology through life experience. She said most life experience credits are applied to electives.

Often, universities will not require ACT scores for non-traditional students.

"Generally, institutions will make it as easy as possible for the adult student," said Daly.

If a four-year bachelors degree seems like too much of a time commitment, other options exist.

Williams said Bellevue University offers certificate programs in which a student completes 30 credit hours within one major.

-see Students, page 8-



# Student Shares Talents with Her Students

BY BLENDIA GUARINO

Lynn Chen, a UNO student from Tayoun, Taiwan, is teaching Chinese calligraphy at Threlkeld Art Studio, located at 324 S. 68 St., in the basement of the owner's home, Elisabeth Threlkeld.

Chen will teach calligraphy during the six week summer session of workshops at the studio, Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The studio has two separate areas. One for pottery and ceramics, in the garage. The second, dedicated to drawing and painting, is in the basement.

While touring the facilities, Threlkeld showed a drawing of an old man, done in pencil on the wall outside her office. Threlkeld said the man who drew this self portrait came to her as a child. Employees of Boys Town brought him to Joslyn Art Museum. They said the boy had no parents or relatives and all he did was draw. Boys Town did not have the facilities or staff to encourage the boy and needed the help of the museum. The boy, now an old man, became a great artist when he grew up.

After the tour, a few students arrived and Lynn Chen came into the studio.

Threlkeld got the class started by providing paper, watercolor paints and brushes. She placed books at the various tables to demonstrate what they will be doing in their watercolor class for the day. Old spray bottles once filled with tub cleaner or weed killer are now art tools. Old ice cube trays become watercolor palettes. Plastic butter bowls hold water.

Some students brought in their homework, which was critiqued. Words were used such as rhythm, color, texture, shapes and unity.

"We are the infants of planet Earth," Threlkeld said.

While they started their class learning how to do a wash with water colors, Chen prepared for her lesson.

There are four different points for the brushes she uses, which are made out of sheep and wolf hairs. She also uses either bottled ink or a Sumi ink stick. The Sumi ink stick can only be described as long and black like a domino. One end is curved, the other is flat. When dipped in water, the stick makes its own ink.

Chen uses paper that is divided into several squares to practice and show her calligraphy.

Chen got hooked on this art form when she studied calligraphy for two years in elementary school. After that, she practiced on her own — refining her technique and studying the work of ancient calligraphers.

Chen showed the students how to use their brushes to do calligraphy. "Hold the brush firmly," Chen said.

She showed how to position the brush in the hands. "Pretend you have an egg in your hand," she said.

Control of the brush is important to accomplish the slight variations in thickness of their lines. In Chinese calligraphy it is the slight variation in thickness and direction that differentiate their various letters...

Chen showed the students one of her favorite books with photographs of calligraphy samples of ancient artists. One showed calligraphy dating back to the year 303.

As the students flocked around the small table, Chen slowly demonstrated the calligraphy.

It was one of Chen's Chinese friends and a fellow artist that asked her to teach the class. "My friend asked me to teach a class on calligraphy," she said.

Chen, who is currently attending UNO to study the English language, was happy for the opportunity to teach her talent. Although she has only been in the United States for a short time, she is grasping the language quickly.

While staying in the United States, Chen lives with her sister who will also be attending college in Omaha for the next two years. Although it is somewhat frightening and exciting to be in a new country, Chen enjoys having the chance to share this experience with her sister. Although Chen's program of study will end before her sister's, she may stay on until her sister is done with school.

After she completes her stay in America, Chen plans to return home to Taiwan to be with her family.

Although she went to college in Taiwan prior to coming to UNO, she plans to attend college again after she returns to Taiwan. She's unsure what program of study she will take, but has



Lynn Chen demonstrates calligraphy to Sharon Clawson at Threlkeld Studios.

narrowed it to either business or accounting.

Chen feels these fields are the most marketable in her country.

Chen wants to ensure a bright and successful future for herself and her family, and said she feels this can only be accomplished through education.

## Nation's Honey Bee Population Declining

BY HEIDI HELLER

Several factors are significantly reducing the nation's honeybee population, Charles Ingham, professor of biology at UNO, said. Major factors causing the decline are insecticides, mites, and competition from African bees.

Two years ago, Congress was looking for ways to reduce spending and cut some support programs for beekeepers who had lost colonies to insecticides, he said.

"It used to be that if you were a beekeeper and you could prove that your bees were killed by insecticides, the government would supplement your losses," Ingham said.

The bees come in contact with insecticides when they gather nectar and pollen from flowers. Ingham said they bring the insecticides back — often killing the whole hive.

"The use of insecticides will kill the beneficial insects as much as the harmful insects," he said.

Government decisions on the importation of honey have also placed financial burdens on beekeepers. Ingham said American beekeepers had been supported by restrictions on foreign honey.

"The government tried to get better relations with other countries such as Mexico and China and opened the import of foreign honey," he said. "Beekeepers in the U.S. couldn't compete with the lower prices."

Parasitic mites have become a serious threat to honeybees. Some varieties, such as spider mites get inside of the bee's breathing tubes, Ingham said. Others suck blood from the honeybees.

Marion Ellis, an apiculture specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, heads a re-

search station north of Mead, Neb. where biologists conduct studies on mites.

There is a plant extract material which keeps pests off them and could be used to repel mites from honeybees.

In addition to research, the facility is used for education.



CHARLES INGHAM

"There are a number of programs including mine which educate beekeepers on how to use existing technologies to control mites," Ellis said. "Mites are the most discouraging for beekeepers because they don't have the tools to deal with them."

Competition from African bees is also reducing the honeybee population.

"Killer bees are very aggressive and tend to eliminate regular honeybees which are better pollinators," Ingham said.

The African bees don't store up much honey because they don't need to keep a large supply.

"In Africa, where these bees originated, there isn't the change in seasons," Ingham said. "It's mostly nice weather all the time."

Fewer bees will mean fewer crops for plants that require insect pollination, Ingham said. Soybeans and major fruits such as apples, peaches, and pears will have smaller harvests.

"If you grow those crops that have to be pollinated by insects, they will not produce fruit or seed if they are not pollinated," Ellis said. "With the decline in the honeybee population, there's not another pollinating insect to step up and take their place."

Ingham said farmers are now paying beekeepers for pollination on the West Coast.

"We need to teach farmers to start paying for pollination to ensure we have pollinators," he said.



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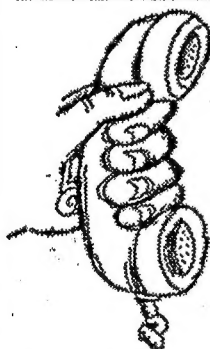
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## 'Courage Under Fire' Examines Soldiers' Honor

REVIEW BY JOEL D. STEVENS

"Courage Under Fire," starring Denzel Washington and Meg Ryan as two very different Gulf War heroes, makes a gracious attempt at evoking a high level of dramatic content in the same military inquiry/mystery genre as "A Soldier's Story."

The film opens in the midst of Desert Storm with Colonel Nat Serling (Washington) and his tank battalion in an explosive firefight. Confused and disoriented by the explosions and the pitch black night, Nat mistakenly destroys a friendly tank, killing his close friend.

Unable to deal with his guilt properly, Nat turns to drinking, isolating his loving wife (Regina Taylor) and children and provoking the ire of his dutiful commanding officer (Michael Moriarty) until he is assigned a special case. Nat is assigned to investigate first woman to be recommended for the Medal of Honor, helicopter pilot Karen Walden (Meg Ryan), who was killed in a Gulf War fire fight.

Washington's Nat is an honorable man, and he wants to see Walden honored for her courage and receive the award. He begins his investigation as a cursory one until discrepancies arise in witness accounts, suggesting the facts are not quite as clear as the politicians pushing for the accommodation had hoped. After seeking out each surviving member of Walden's crew, including Matt Damon as a guilt ridden medic and Lou Diamond Phillips as a violent drill instructor, Washington's suspicions are mysteriously realized, as what really took place in that isolated dune becomes clear. Nat's struggle to find the truth serves as his own search for redemption, as if the key to acknowledging this hero's honor is the key to his own.

Framed nearly entirely in flashback and character account (Washington and Ryan never appear on screen together), the narrative closely resembles Norman Jewison's 1984 film "A Soldier's Story" where Washington is the lone crusader of justice and truth who can't let go when everyone tells him to sweep it under the rug and forget it. In "Courage Under Fire," Nat is haunted by his guilt, and can't move on. He is constantly reminded that he killed his friend, a dedicated journalist (Scott Glenn), and his friend's parents continue to inquire about the "real" truth.

"Courage Under Fire" questions the definitions of courage and honor and what those definitions mean to a soldier, to an officer and more importantly to a human. Ryan's Walden



Meg Ryan portrays a Medevac pilot who suddenly finds herself in the midst of battle in "Courage Under Fire."

is neither superhuman nor flawless in combat and neither is Washington's Nat. They both are simply humans, who in combat made decisions, unconscious of fate and the nature of courage that made them both heroes.

Director Ed Zwick seems obsessed with these transient concepts of courage and honor. He forms a fine, if inconsistent trilogy with the brilliant "Glory" and the overwrought "Legends of the Fall." Zwick's camera catches both the horrors of war and the emotional volatility of the human spirit in naturalistic style, much like the war movies of old Hollywood.

"Courage Under Fire" is fine film, possessing two finely crafted characters with two great actors. But as an analysis of courage under fire and the struggle with guilt "Courage Under Fire" is a good film. As the indictment of why women should be in combat, it's just average.

## Cowboy Junkies' New Release, 'Lay it Down,' by Far Best Performance Yet

REVIEW BY KENNETH WALL

Warning: This material may not be suitable for listening while operating a motor vehicle.

"Mesmerizing" may be a gross understatement about a Cowboy Junkies album. The latest release from the royal court of melancholy, "Lay it Down," reinforces that thought with a velvet-covered sledge hammer.

Released February 27, the Toronto-based band's sixth album is by far its most edgy performance yet. Led by the honest and searching poetry of Michael Timmins, the band consists of three Timmins: Michael, guitar; Margo, vocals; and Peter, drums. The fourth member is Alan Anton, as good a bass player as I've ever heard.

Not quite surly enough to be considered a part of the grunge scene, the Junkies are in a class all by themselves. Heavily influenced by the eldest Timmins sibling, John, they grew up listening to The Velvet Underground. This probably accounts for their first hit being a cover of the Underground's "Sweet Jane," from the second album entitled "The Trinity Sessions" (Latent, 1988).

The most notable development on "Lay it Down" is the band's growth musically. While the lyrics and vocals have always been strong, the instrumentation has sometimes seemed a little overshadowed, almost secondary. Not true here. From the very first track, the listener is treated to one

of the most enthralling performances of 1996. Anton's bass is suddenly a prominent force in the Junkies' communication of



not experienced before this record.

The tracks on "Lay it Down" sound like the sort of songs you might sing to yourself if you were walking on a dark path in a forest you'd never been in before. A little bit scared, and maybe just a little bit curious, the music here possesses a hint

of Michael's divine compositions. Even Michael himself has stretched the earlier limits of his guitar playing to the upper echelon of modern music.

Since the band's previous album, "Pale Sun, Crescent Moon," (RCA, 1993) the Cowboy Junkies have left RCA (peacefully) and signed with Geffen Records. In 1994, Margo finally found a voice coach she could live with in Mitch Seekin. There is an element of control she had

of anger from time to time. Death is a familiar topic in Michael Timmins' songs, and there is certainly no shortage of it here. Writing from a somewhat voyeuristic point of view, he gives the impression that he sees death as becoming increasingly trivialized, maybe even glamorous.

Much less an exploration of the tradition of the southern region of the United States, "Down" is an adventure in interpreting one's own conscience. The song brings an inward look at humanity without some cause-of-the-minute theme being shoved down our throats.

A solid example of this technique is heard in the repetition of "I just want to see what kills me" in the background of "Just Want to See." A constant questioning throughout the album is answered in the last song, "Now I Know." Margo sings "Now I know, now I know what it means to be broken."

Perhaps the best purchase of the year so far, "Lay it Down" is moodiness at its best. More great sounds from Canada are really beginning to put pressure on U.S. artists. If you like to listen to music just for the sake of listening to music, this should be the next addition to your collection. It's the best buy on the market.



# Ska Suicide Machines Find Way to Success

BY BEN THOMPSON

Successes in the "new" punk world by the likes of Green Day, the Offspring, and Rancid have paved the way for young, average bands to get big record deals and good touring opportunities.

For Detroit's Suicide Machines, the success of the MTV generation punk bands has led to an astounding album with prominent possibilities.

The band signed to Hollywood Records after releasing a cassette on its own and appearing on a few compilation discs. Now the band has a national tour to introduce itself to the rest of the nation as "the next big thing," and further enhance its music with barrels of people beginning to follow the machine.

The Suicide Machines, who took its name from the infamous Dr. Kevorkian, is scheduled to play at the Cog Factory on July 23 with lesser-known punk hipsters, the Vandals.

The Machines' undeniable charm of witty lyrics and spasmatic guitars seem to make a perfect Rancid-wanna-be band. The inevitable comparison to the ska-punk pioneers quickly becomes disillusioned when listening to the Machines debut album, "Destruction By Definition."

Rancid's "And Out Come The Wolves" is a brilliant introduction into ska-punk. "Destruction By Definition" is everything Rancid has done plus more. The Machines pick up on the three-chord guitar frequency and add new dimensions of humor and sincerity.

The band enlisted Julian Raymond and Phil Kaffel as producers and Jerry Finn to mix the album. Finn has previously mixed albums for Green Day and Rancid, further explaining the similarities between punk bands.

On "Vars Song," the Machines take a look at the lighter side of punk, with commentary on the popular footwear. "You think Doc Martens are the coolest invention, since someone sliced a loaf of bread in someone else's kitchen" proves an enticing ditty about the lag-along teenagers associated with, at least for now, punk music.

The album is not entirely a "comedy." Many of the songs enlisted on "Destruction" are potential punk classics. Where Rancid leaves you singing "Ruby Soho," the Suicide Machines leave you screaming "SOS we need help." This track is one of a few where the Machines inspect the racial prob-



The Suicide Machines are, from left, Jason Navarro, Royce Nunley, Derek Grant and Dan Suicide Machine.

lems of today's society and why mankind continues to kill itself off.

The Suicide Machines have a well-defined attitude of prosperity. The band asks questions and considers others, while many bands of today are concerned only about themselves.

The Machines pay tribute to punk legend Minor Threat with a version of "I Don't Want To Hear It" that could almost be considered one of their own.

The power of the punk band gives an encompassing view of the mosh pit, and the Suicide Machines do their best to deliver music that can be "danced" to. The Machines strive for music, and what they achieve is a bolstered sound to make your heart race.

Yes, the Suicide Machines do resemble Rancid, but the Machines have a far greater potential.

It's called being unknown.

They have the ability to grow from their current status and become a success. Rancid was thrust into the limelight with Green Day, and has trouble remaining loyal to its music as the band changes record labels. The Machines are already on a decent label, Hollywood Records, and are looking to the future. They hold a distinct possibility of becoming "the next big thing."

## -from Letters, page 3-

new era. The Mavs deserve the support that the Huskers receive. They are all student athletes trying to do the best they can and everyone needs encouragement at some point in their life. Attend games and events that the University offers, who knows you might enjoy yourself. Students at UNO tend to complain about the things they cannot have (i.e. parking) and do not see the things they can have. I think if the students want to attend a UNO hockey game, they will find a way to get a ticket just like they find a way to get a ticket to the UNO football games, by purchasing one.

Geri Sorensen  
UNO Staff  
Grants Accounting

## -from Regents, page 1-

was put forth by University of Nebraska President L. Dennis Smith.

"Keeping all of IS&T and Engineering together enhances the whole," Smith said. "Everything in engineering is moving towards information sciences."

Smith also said that the \$6 million savings by splitting the programs was an optimistic estimate at best.

The second big construction item approved for UNO was the \$9.5 million Fieldhouse Renovation project.

The renovation will give the Fieldhouse a press box for indoor events, a new wrestling room, more locker spaces and new offices for the athletic department that are more accessible to the general public. Over 71,000 square feet will be renovated, and more than 48,000 square feet will be added to the Fieldhouse.

The Regents also passed an initiative that will add \$5.5 million to the annual operating budget of the university for the next twelve years for the purpose of renovation and deferred maintenance. The money will be raised, according to the proposal, by the sale of bonds.

Work on the backlog of deferred maintenance throughout the university system could begin almost immediately, said NU Vice-President James Van Horn, and work on all major projects would begin within two years.

At the April 27 meeting of the Regents, Van Horn said that the Regents should pass the bond issue in order to keep buildings and infrastructure in good condition for the future.

## -from Creek, page 1-

uncommon for an education major to find a strong interest in performance. She won a scholarship to Indiana University, her parents' alma mater. Her mother said, "I was interested that she go there because she had a lot of success, but in Omaha, she didn't know how competitive she was."

While in graduate school, Creek performed the roles of Eurydice in "Orpheus in the Underworld," Javotte in "Manon," and Smeraldina in "The Love for Three Oranges." There she also met her future husband, Mark Biesterfeld, who is also a singer.

Over the past few years, Ms. Creek, a mezzo-soprano, has apprenticed with the Utah Festival Opera and the Santa Fe Opera. After performing with Opera Colorado this past year, this summer she will play Meg Page in "Falstaff" and Maddalena in "Il Viaggio a Reims" with the Wolf Trap Opera.

Creek's success is very exciting for her parents. Hysteria, her mother said, isn't too far from the way she felt when Leah called with the news of the Metropolitan Opera win. At the same time her mother found it sobering to think of her daughter as one of the nine winners.

Even with the success she has had so far, Ruetz said Creek's career is just beginning with the winning of the Metropolitan Opera competition. No matter what the future brings, this honor "adds this element of prestige, I think, to anything she does from here on," he said.

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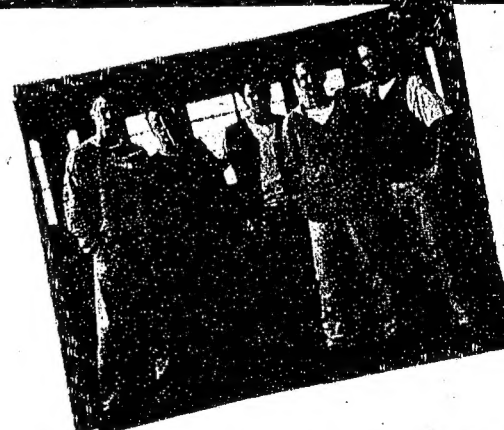
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## -from Students, page 4-

Williams said completing a certificate can seem like an "attainable goal." After receiving a certificate a student can then go on to get an associate's degree and then a bachelor's. Kropf said the College of St. Mary also offers certificates in some fields which can also be applied to an associates and then a bachelors.

Daly said if a student would like to go back to school, but isn't sure what to major in, they should talk to an admissions counselor. "Most of us aren't aware of all the jobs that are out there. Everyone wants to be a doctor or a lawyer and there are all kinds of jobs out there," said Daly. "Talk to an admissions officer, this is what I do like, this is what I don't like," said Kropf.

Kropf said that part of the appeal of getting a degree is the sense of accomplishment. It's something you do totally on your own. If you don't do it, no one will."



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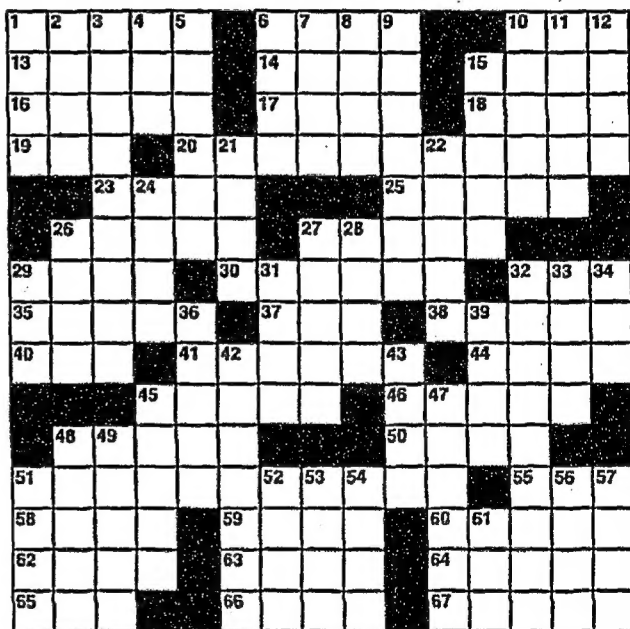
## The Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Tablet
- 6 Annoying person
- 10 Central
- 13 Estate
- 14 Declare
- 15 Constructed
- 16 Beneath
- 17 Kind of bean
- 18 Diva's song
- 19 Chat informally
- 20 Request, of a kind
- 23 Writer Ferber
- 25 Source of special delight
- 26 Household workers
- 27 Army delinquents
- 29 Concern
- 30 Literary device
- 32 Crazy — of the comics
- 35 Soul
- 37 Swab
- 38 Cubic meter
- 40 Dog or cat
- 41 Showered
- 44 Ogled
- 45 Swiss city
- 46 Baking chambers
- 48 Aim
- 50 Jay of TV
- 51 Melons
- 55 Harbor boat
- 58 Buffalo's lake
- 59 Other
- 60 Dictation taker
- 62 God of love
- 63 Observed
- 64 Spectral
- 65 Thesaurus word abbr.
- 66 Kind
- 67 Endures

### DOWN

- 1 Self-righteously complacent
- 2 Turner of films
- 3 "Grin —" (old proverb)
- 4 — the line (obey)
- 5 Chore
- 6 Insect appendage
- 7 Satanic
- 8 Kind of trailer
- 9 Farm machine
- 10 "Ave —"
- 11 — box (television)
- 12 School VIP
- 15 Wife and husband
- 21 Go by
- 22 Rhone city
- 24 Per — (daily)
- 26 Horse's neck hair
- 27 Do penance
- 28 Dry
- 29 Head cover
- 31 Infamous Idi
- 32 Main speakers
- 33 War god
- 34 Turner or Danson
- 36 Site for sports events
- 39 Youngster



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- 42 Nalve
- 43 Hand out
- 45 Nibbles
- 47 Container
- 48 Ward off
- 49 Hamburger garnish
- 51 Average grades
- 52 Butter substitute
- 53 Employer
- 54 Confined
- 56 Distinct entity
- 57 Leaves
- 61 Oolong, e.g.

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